



# Dual Vocational Training and Education



## Information and Tips for School Pupils and their Parents



## Dual vocational training and education offers excellent prospects for the future!

### What is it and where does training take place?

Qualified specialists have good employment prospects. In fact, over 60 percent of employees in Germany are specialists who have completed vocational training.

Once they have finished their school education, pupils who want to do an apprenticeship can choose to complete a dual vocational training and education programme. These programmes combine practical training at a company with theoretical education at a vocational college. Trainees normally spend three to four days working at a company in order to learn the practical aspects of their chosen profession. They spend the other days of the working week at a vocational college, where they learn the required professional theory for the job for which they are training alongside general school subjects.

Dual vocational training and education programmes last between two and three and a half years depending on the profession in question. They end with a major final examination.

Some professions require trainees to complete a two-year-long apprenticeship after which they can work towards further qualifications. Vocational training can also be completed on a part-time basis in the case of trainees with family responsibilities.

Depending on the industry concerned, companies demand that trainees fulfil specific requirements or have achieved specific school qualifications. In some professions, trainees can also complete internships abroad during their training period.

Dual vocational training and education completed in Germany is also recognised on an international level.

### Diversity

350 professions in 18 occupational areas require employees to have completed dual vocational training and education in order to work in Germany. The range of professions available is huge and new career opportunities are added every year! Be it construction, civil and underground engineering, trade fair and event management, medical and rehabilitation

engineering, printing and media, precision mechanics and tool making, the tertiary sector, catering and gastronomy or administration, there really is something for everyone!

You can find detailed information on all professions requiring vocational training here: [www.planet-beruf.de](http://www.planet-beruf.de)

### Good Remuneration

Trainees earn money on a regular basis throughout their training period. The remuneration for vocational training in the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia is between € 400 and € 700 per month in the first year of training depending on the profession in question. Under certain conditions, trainees can additionally receive financial support from the German Federal Employment Agency (BA), which pays the so-called "vocational training assistance" (Berufsausbildungshilfe (BAB)). You can find more detailed information on remuneration for vocational training here: [www.tarifregister.nrw.de](http://www.tarifregister.nrw.de)

### Good Working Conditions

Regulated working hours, compensation for overtime, regular breaks, sufficient days off and punctual wage payments all apply to trainees too! The German Youth Employment Protection Act (JArbSchG) additionally applies to trainees aged under 18 and extensive protection is also available for trainees aged 18 and up!

These advantages are joined by the fact that the training content for each profession adheres to a so-called training framework plan so that trainees learn precisely what is important for their selected vocational training. The chambers and trade unions in the Confederation of German Trade Unions (DGB) help trainees to solve any problems that may occur during their training. If these problems are so severe that the successful completion of their training is at risk, the German Federal Employment Agency offers "vocational training support measures" (ausbildungsbegleitende Hilfen – abH) or "Assisted Training" (Assistierte Ausbildung – AsA).

## Further information

For more information, please visit:

- [nrw-jugend.dgb.de/themen/ausbildung/deine-rechte-in-der-ausbildung](http://nrw-jugend.dgb.de/themen/ausbildung/deine-rechte-in-der-ausbildung)
- [www.hwk-aachen.de](http://www.hwk-aachen.de)
- [www.handwerk.de](http://www.handwerk.de)
- [www.ihk-aachen.de](http://www.ihk-aachen.de)
- [www.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.arbeitsagentur.de) (keyword search: "Ausbildungsbegleitende Hilfen" (vocational training support measures) or "Assistierte Ausbildung" (Assisted Training))

### Prospects

When they complete vocational training at a company, young people establish a solid foundation for their entry into the world of work and their career at a company. They can also, for example, already achieve additional qualifications such as a higher school leaving certificate during their training period. By doing so, trainees can qualify to start university studies once they have finished their training. Trainees can also make the most of many opportunities to complete further training in certain professions, for example as business administration or management specialists or as masters of their trade, after their initial vocational training. They can even take a trainer aptitude test (Ausbildereignungsprüfung) if they are interested in becoming trainers themselves. Dual vocational training and education programmes are additionally useful for university studies. Prior practical experience normally has a positive influence on university applications and can even replace the German advanced qualification for university entrance (Abitur) in combination with professional experience, thus enabling former trainees to complete a degree at a later point in time.

For more information on being admitted to university without an Abitur, please visit: [www.wissenschaft.nrw.de/studium/bewerben/studieren-ohne-abitur/](http://www.wissenschaft.nrw.de/studium/bewerben/studieren-ohne-abitur/)

You can find out more about dual programmes of study and training here: [www.wegweiser-duales-studium.de/nrw/](http://www.wegweiser-duales-studium.de/nrw/)

### How to Find a Dual Vocational Training and Education Programme

You can find information on vacant training positions online in all of the common online exchanges for trainee positions (Lehrstellenbörsen) for our region. Application deadlines for these positions may vary a great deal. Some companies even select their new trainees as early as a year before the start of the training period.

The following websites are just some examples of portals containing online exchanges and atlases for trainee positions and the contact details of people who can help you further:

- [www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de](http://www.jobboerse.arbeitsagentur.de)
- [www.ihk-lehrstellenboerse.de](http://www.ihk-lehrstellenboerse.de)
- [www.ihk-aachen.de](http://www.ihk-aachen.de)
- [www.hwk-aachen.de](http://www.hwk-aachen.de)

You can find advice on producing suitable applications and book an application portfolio check on websites such as: <http://nrw-jugend.dgb.de/themen/schule/bewerbungsbuch>

You can find out more about the Berufskollegs (vocational colleges) of the StädteRegion Aachen here: [www.berufskolleg-aachen.de](http://www.berufskolleg-aachen.de)

### No Qualifications without Connections The Transition from School to Work in North Rhine-Westphalia

The main aim of the "Kein Abschluss ohne Anschluss" (No Qualifications without Connections) project run by the German Federal State of North Rhine-Westphalia is to offer all school-leavers prospects for career-oriented vocational connections by making a systematic transition from school to vocational training or university studies standard across Germany from Year 8 onwards.

The StädteRegion Aachen is responsible for coordinating the required agreements between actors in the fields of career and study orientation, vocational preparation and vocational training on a regional level. It moderates communication between the partners involved, manages the business activities of the Advisory Council for School-Job-Study (Beirat Schule-Beruf-Studium), the Steering Committee (Steuergruppe) and the three Specialist Working Groups (Facharbeitsgruppen), brings all actors to the table, achieves workable agreements and in doing so, supports cooperation.

### Do you have any questions?

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